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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
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Dockets  
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Honorable George E. Brown  
Chairman, Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology  
2320 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-6301

Dear Chairman Brown:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's pending proceeding that addresses the allocation of spectrum for the mobile-satellite service using low-Earth orbit satellites - (LEO-MSS).

On September 26, 1991, in ET Docket No. 91-280, we proposed to allocate spectrum in the VHF and UHF bands for LEO-MSS that can be used for position determination and data messaging. We awarded a tentative pioneer's preference to Volunteers in Technical Assistance, Inc. for their pioneering effort in developing the first civilian LEO communications satellite system.

In another proceeding, ET Docket No. 92-28, on August 5, 1992, we proposed to allocate spectrum in the 1.6 and 2.5 GHz bands for a mobile-satellite service using LEOs or geostationary satellites (GEOs) that would provide two-way voice services, position determination, and data messaging. In this proceeding we declined to award a tentative pioneer's preference because none of the proponents demonstrated that they were the innovators of the proposed technology.

Allocating spectrum in an efficient manner that promotes competition is one of the Commission's priorities. We are studying how to accommodate various LEO proponent systems that may use incompatible technical schemes. In ET Docket No. 91-280, we have proposed the use of negotiated rulemaking procedures as one possible way to reach accommodation among the competing interests. We are considering the same approach in ET Docket No. 92-28.

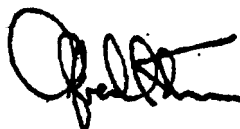
Please be assured that your views regarding the efficient use of the spectrum, minimizing operational costs, and promoting competition are consistent with those of the Commission. Your

Honorable George E. Brown

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letter will be taken into account before a final decision is made in these matters, and for that purpose I am placing it in the record of both ET Dockets No. 91-280 and 92-28.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred C. Sikes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alfred C. Sikes  
Chairman

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July 22, 1992

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The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I have followed with a good deal of interest the FCC's consideration of the pending license applications for the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) communications satellite systems. The FCC's decisions will be critical to the successful deployment of this significant new global communications technology.

There are a number of important technical and policy issues which need to be weighed carefully by the Commission in reaching its decision. It is important that the Commission review and analyze these competing issues in a fair and open rule-making process. A premature decision, made without the opportunity for public input, could significantly cripple the ability of this promising technology to provide maximum services at the lowest possible price for users around the world.

In particular, as we have learned all too painfully on this Committee, it is unwise to put all of our technological eggs into a single basket. Where, as here, there are competing systems each with its own advantages and disadvantages, I urge the Commission to avoid decisions that would inhibit those competitive market forces which are most likely to develop the best technologies and ultimately determine the winners of this market.

I appreciate your consideration of these views and would ask that these comments be made a part of the public record on the above proceeding.

Sincerely,

  
GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.  
Chairman

cc: Commissioner James H. Quello  
Commissioner Sherrie P. Marshall  
Commissioner Andrew C. Barrett  
Commissioner Ervin S. Duggan